

## FOUR ARE CAPTURED

AL. AND FRANK JENNINGS SAID  
TO BE PRISONERS.

## WITH TWO COMRADES

ARRESTED IN INDIAN TERRITORY  
BY DEPUTIES.

## CHARGES WITH TRAIN ROBBERY

BESIDES OTHER VARIOUS INFRAC-  
TIONS OF LAW.Rewards Aggregating Eight Thousand  
Dollars Standing Against the Parties  
—Two of Malley Caught.

Muskogee, I. T., Dec. 6.—Four members of the so-called Jennings gang of outlaws were lodged in jail here tonight. Al and Frank Jennings, the reputed leaders of the band, are among the prisoners. The two Jennings brothers and Tom O'Malley were captured by four of United States Marshal Bennett's men early this morning, while traveling in a covered wagon, east of here, toward the Arkansas line. The deputies surprised them on the road, and they surrendered without firing a shot. The deputies then went to a house near Bond Switch and captured Morris O'Malley, catching him in bed. Since last Tuesday the deputies had been close upon the trail of the bandits, for whom there are standing rewards aggregating \$8,000. On Tuesday last Marshal Bennett's men encountered the gang at a house in the western part of the Cherokee nation. The deputies succeeded in arresting John O'Malley, but the others made their escape at that time and had evidently satisfied themselves that the officers had been eluded, as they were not prepared to resist when surprised today.

The Jennings boys and their followers are charged with various crimes, but were particularly wanted for the hold-up of a Rock Island passenger train in Chickasaw, I. T. They are also accused of having stolen four hundred head of cattle from the Chickasaw nation.

Al Jennings has been a leader in Oklahoma politics. He was at one time county attorney of Canadian county, and is a lawyer of considerable ability, and both Al and Frank are graduates of the University of Virginia. Another brother was killed by Temple Houston of Texas, during a saloon war about two years ago. Al Jennings was shot in the arm during the same affair. The brothers come of a highly respected family. Their father is probate judge of Woodward county, Oklahoma.

## CALLS DOWN GENERAL NEWS

Oklahoma City Times Journal Says He Is  
Doing the Cause Here.

Guthrie, O. T., Dec. 6.—The Oklahoma City Times-Journal says: "Hew is able with proclamations and pronouncements to stir up the whole government over the invasion of the Oklahoma country by his band of gold seekers."

"Hew is doing the cause no good. Such agitation as he is working up is not the kind that will stir the people to action. It will, however, create a belief that a lawless element is waiting in force along the border ready to break in and take the country from the Indians."

"Hew has been a few weeks ago showing samples of rock taken from prospect holes in the forbidden country. He depicted eloquently upon its value, but when asked what the United States assayer said about it he sheepishly replied that the samples sent to the government assay office did not show satisfactory results."

"Homesteaders will be listened to, and if an earnest and determined fight is made in the name of the homesteaders, congress may be forced to act, but the gold-seekers' invading army will accomplish nothing."

## HIS DEATH WAS CONCEALED

Sly Tactics of a Family Who Had a Dam-  
ned Secret.

Guthrie, O. T., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—A special from Atchison says: Atchison people generally believe that Chadley Loller is still alive and a report was even circulated about a week ago to the effect that he was improving and would probably recover, but it has just leaked out that he died in Oklahoma September 8. The matter was kept quiet by Loller's relatives in order to secure a compromise with Captain Baker, in their \$10,000 damage suit against him. It will be remembered that young Loller was arrested some time ago and that while resisting arrest Captain Baker, who was then police commissioner, struck him on the head with a cane, inflicting, as the Lollers claim, permanent injuries, for which they brought suit for \$10,000 damages. Young Loller afterwards accidentally shot himself at Potter, and after lingering between life and death for several months, was taken to Oklahoma, where he died on September 8, as above stated. It is understood that a compromise was recently effected in the damage suit and that Captain Baker is still ignorant of the young man's death.

## COLUMBIA OPERA COMPANY

Nestle Right Down Among the Warm  
Affections of Guthrie.

Guthrie, O. T., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—The Columbia Opera company tonight closed an engagement which was both a social and financial success. By request a male quartette furnished the music for the services at the Episcopal church last night, and Mr. Harry Davis sang the offertory solo. The singers were entertained at the close of the service by Governor and Mrs. Barnes.

## ONLY A TWO YEARS RECESS

Brooks Forests Save the Statehood Con-  
vention Never Adjourned.

Guthrie, O. T., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Brooks Forest of El Reno was a prominent figure at the reception to Bryan last Saturday, and gave renewed assurance to the newspapers that he would surely be on hand at the proposed statehood convention. He will not only be on hand, but he has the report of the com-

mittee on credentials at the last statehood convention now ready, and will insist on reading it at the first opportunity. It will be remembered that Colonel Forrest at the last statehood convention was chosen as chairman of the committee on credentials; and he and his committee were at work when the convention took a notion to adjourn sine die. The colonel knew nothing of the adjournment until four or five hours after the convention had fallen into "innocuous desuetude" and a majority of the participants were either drunk or returning to their homes. He insists that a convention cannot adjourn indefinitely while it has committee out at work, and that therefore the wild and woolly aggregation of howling sovereigns which met in Oklahoma City two years ago are still in session, and that he is ready to report whenever he can catch the eye of the chair.

## CUCLONE AND A BET

Judgement of Providence on Some Smooth  
Practical Jokers in Oklahoma.

Guthrie, O. T., Dec. 6.—The following is related by the Chandler News:  
A little over a year ago J. C. Fletcher and O. B. Kee, with some friends visited an ice cream parlor in Chandler and informed the proprietor that they had bet the ice cream and wished to eat it then and as soon as the bet was decided the loser would pay the bill. That was all right, and they partook of the cooling refreshments, after which the proprietor asked what the bet was and when it would be decided. Kee explained that he had bet that the spire of the Methodist church would fall south, and Fletcher bet that it would fall north, and that the bet would be decided when the spire fell. In the course of time a cyclone came along and the whole building went north, and now Fletcher insists that Kee should hunt up that ice cream man and pay the bill.

## EL RENO'S PROSPERITY

Enlivened With a Little Touch or Two of  
Humor Now and Then.

El Reno, O. T., Dec. 6.—(Special.)—Mr. Louis Elchoff, who has been sick for some time, is recovering rapidly. It was thought two weeks ago that he would travel the long and narrow trail. Here is another evidence of prosperity. Last year the Rock Island railroad used the depot at this point for a whistling station, few passengers got on or off the cars and the freight business would not pay the salary of the baggage master. Last month the company did a business of \$31,355, and the chances are that during the month of December the freight and passenger business will get close to \$100,000. Several car loads of cotton were unloaded at the compress and freight yard.

Helen, the 3-year-old daughter of Charlie Caswell, county attorney, got hold of a bottle of carbolic acid and glycerine, Saturday, and drank a portion of the mixture. The parents of the child received a scare they will remember for some time to come. But for the prompt attention of physicians the little one would have died.

Another big institution is booked for El Reno. This time it is a colossal lumber yard. F. L. Adams of Texas is to be the manager. The lumber is now arriving and in a few days the office and sheds will be built. Even Texas, as big as she is, is looking out for a share of El Reno's prosperity.

Dan Peery has a court of justice for common every day offenders in the citizen class, but when a blue coated "Yankee" soldier from Fort Reno "busted" any of the law made and provided for the peace and dignity of the city then his honor forms himself into a summary court, just the same as they do at Fort Reno. His rank on each occasion is that of major. Last Saturday night, the weather being rather cool, a weary soldier strolled over from the post and after putting in a dozen or more "hot ones" under his belt stated out to reconstruct the town. He did the best he knew how for a short time and then was gathered in by Billy Robar, the night marshal. The next morning the soldier was brought before the court, which was Dan. The soldier pleaded guilty to having a comfortable jag on; then it came Dan's turn. In a voice full of emotion he told the country's defender to stand up and take his little medicine. "My friend," said Dan, "I know you are a brave soldier and no doubt a quiet, unassuming man, when sober, but the laws of this ballistics must and shall be obeyed or by the eternal I will know the reason why. You were caught red handed in the act of getting roaring drunk; in fact you did not know whether you were stout or horseback. I am sorry to have to do it to you, but, as I said before, the law has to be obeyed and the sentence of this august court is that you forfeit to the city of El Reno \$7.25 of your monthly pay for the period of month and that you be placed in the care and custody of Jim Kelley until this fine is paid."

At a recent incident occurred at the marine service of the Catholic church yesterday. Father Germann is one of the most eloquent preachers in the territory and his sermons are listened to by his large congregation with marked attention. But yesterday he got things slightly mixed. His discourse was about the chances a rich man had in interviewing Peter at the pearly gate. He said it is just as easy for a camel to go through the eye of a needle as to get through the eye of a catholic needle. Father Germann, when he reads his Bible tomorrow, will see why his congregation smiled when he uttered those prophetic words.

Major John A. Freeman has received a letter from S. M. Porter, general attorney of the Kansas, Oklahoma Central and Gulf railway. Mr. Porter says the work of building the first sixty-three miles of the road will begin right away. If El Reno will do her part the line will be extended to this city. Now is the accepted time for property owners to speak their little piece.

## GIRL CRAZED WITH REMORSE

Cut Off the Head of Her New Born Infant  
With a Butcher Knife.

St. Louis, Dec. 6.—Sallie Jackson, a young woman employed as a domestic in a prominent family in this city, gave birth to a child early this morning. Seized with remorse, she almost severed the child's head from its body with a butcher knife. When found, she was unconscious with the dead infant lying near her. She was removed to the hospital and later died without regaining consciousness.

The Lock Observatory eclipse expedition from San Francisco has arrived at Bombay and will proceed inland to select an observation station.

IS LARGELY OF CUBA  
AND THE CURRENCYPresident McKinley's Message to  
Congress is a Thoroughly Con-  
servative Document.

## FOR CURRENCY REFORM

Excellences of the Existing System Need Not Be  
Swept Away in the Work of Curing  
Its Notorious Defects.Spain is Throwing Her Last Card and Should Not Be Molested—  
When She Fails, if Fail She Must, Then the Gov-  
ernment Will Not Hesitate to Act.Hawaii Knocks and Should Be Admitted—Central American Republics  
and the Nicaraguan Canal—Wolcott Commission's Failure  
Not Final—What is Doing in the Cause of Reciprocity—Merchant  
Marine Should Be Fostered—Bering Sea Problem—International  
Arbitration Favored—Appropriation Recommended For the Paris  
Exposition—Naval Equipment Increase Needed—Much to Be Done  
For Alaska.

Most Vigorous Note in the Document is Struck When the Five Civilized Tribes are  
Touched Upon, Strong Measures, Promptly Used, Being Deemed the Only  
Way With Them—Yellow Fever Should Be Investigated by Experts—Pacific  
Railroads and Government Ownership—Congressional Library—Civil  
Service System Upheld—No Department Reported to Have Failed of a  
Dilemma—Not a Surprise in the Entire Document—Comment on the Message  
by Members of Congress—John Bull Ventilates It From His Standpoint, Seem-  
ing Little to Praise and Much to Sneeze At—How the Naughty Spaniard Feels.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The message of President McKinley to congress, transmitted today, is as follows:

To the senate and house of representatives:  
It gives me pleasure to extend greeting to the Fifty-fifth congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many of whose senators and representatives I have been associated in the legislative service. Their meeting occurs under felicitous conditions, justifying sincere congratulation, and calling for our grateful acknowledgments to a beneficent Providence which has so signally blessed us as a nation. Peace and good will with all nations of the earth continue unbroken.

## AN UNITED COUNTRY.

A matter of genuine satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and unification of all sections of our country, the incompleteness of which has too long delayed realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The public questions which now most engross us are lifted far above either partisanship, prejudice or former sectional differences. They affect every part of our common country alike and permit of no division on ancient lines. Questions of foreign policy, of revenue, the soundness of the currency, the inviolability of national obligations, and the improvement of public service, appeal to the individual conscience of every earnest citizen, to whatever party he belongs or in whatever section of the country he may reside.

THE EXTRA SESSION.  
The extra session of this congress, which closed during July, last, enacted important legislation, and while its full effects have not yet been realized, what it has already accomplished assures us of its timeliness and wisdom. To test its permanent value further time will be required, and the people, satisfied with its operation and results thus far, are in no mood to withhold from it a fair trial.

## CURRENCY.

OPERATION SINCE 1886.

Tariff legislation having been settled by the extra session of congress, the question next pressing for consideration is that of the currency. The work of putting our finances upon a sound basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear easier when we recall the financial operations of the government since 1886. On the thirtieth day of June of that year, we had outstanding demand liabilities in the sum of \$728,868,447.41.

On the first of January, 1879, these liabilities had been reduced to \$443,539,495.83. Of our interest-bearing obligations, the figures are even more striking. On July 1, 1896, the principal of the interest-bearing debt of the government was \$2,322,281,285. On the first day of July, 1897, this sum had been reduced to \$585,007,100, or an aggregate reduction of \$1,747,284,185. The interest-bearing debt of the United States on the first day of December, 1897, was \$417,365,620. The government money now outstanding (December 1) consists of \$446,681,049 of United States notes, \$107,754,230 of treasury notes issued by authority of the law of 1890, \$384,561,504 of silver certificates, and \$61,880,751 of standard silver dollars.

With the great resources of the government and with the time-honored example of the past before us, we ought not to hesitate to enter upon a currency revision which will make our demand obligations less onerous to the government and relieve our financial laws from ambiguity and doubt.

The brief review of what was accomplished from the close of the war to 1896, makes unreasonable and groundless any distrust either of our financial ability or soundness; while the situation from 1893 to 1897 must admonish congress of the immediate necessity of legislation to make the return of the conditions then prevailing possible.

## EVILS AND REMEDIES.

There are many plans proposed as a remedy for the evil. Before we can find the true remedy we must appreciate the real evil. It is not that our currency of every kind is good; good, for every dollar of it is good; good because the gov-

ernment has an interest-bearing debt to provide gold for the redemption of United States notes—a non-interest-bearing debt. Surely it should not pay them out again except on demand for gold. If they are put out in any other way, they may return again, to be followed by another bond issue to redeem them—another interest-bearing debt to redeem a non-interest-bearing debt.

## THE FINANCIAL BAROMETER.

In my view, it is of the utmost importance that the government should be relieved from the business of providing all the gold required for exchanges and export. This responsibility is alone borne by the government without any of the usual and necessary banking powers to help itself. The banks do not feel the strain of the gold redemption. The whole strain rests upon the government and the size of the gold reserve in the treasury has come to be, with or without reason, the signal of danger or of security. This ought to be stopped.

If we are to have an era of prosperity in the country, with sufficient receipts for the expenses of the government, we may feel no immediate embarrassment from our present currency; but the danger still exists and ever will be present, menacing us as long as the existing system continues. And besides it is in times of adequate revenues and business tranquility that the government should prepare for the worst. We cannot avoid without serious consequences the wise consideration and prompt solution of this question.

SECRETARY GAGE'S PLAN.  
The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of a depleted gold reserve and save us from future embarrassment on that account. To that plan, I invite your careful consideration.

I concur with the secretary of the treasury in his recommendation that national banks be allowed to issue notes to the face value of the bonds which they have deposited for circulation, and that the tax on circulating notes secured by deposit of such bonds be reduced to one-half of one per cent per annum. I also join him in recommending that authority be given for the establishment of national banks with a minimum capital of \$25,000. This will enable the smaller villages and agricultural regions of the country to be supplied with currency to meet their needs.

I recommend that the issue of national bank notes be restricted to the denomination of ten dollars and upwards. If the suggestions I have herein made shall have the approval of congress, then I would recommend that national banks be required to redeem their notes in gold.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The Cuban Question.

The most important problem with which this government is now called upon to deal pertaining to its foreign relations concerns its duty towards Spain and the Cuban insurrection. Problems and conditions more or less in common with those now existing have confronted this government in various times in the past. The story of Cuba for many years has been one of unrelenting disappointment; an effort toward a larger enjoyment of liberty and self-control; of organized resistance to the mother country; of depression after distress and warfare, and of ineffectual settlement, to be followed by renewed revolt. For no enduring period since the enfranchisement of the continental possessions of Spain in the Western Hemisphere has the condition of Cuba, or the policy of Spain toward Cuba, not excited concern to the United States.

## THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

The prospect from time to time that the weakness of Spain's hold upon the island and the political vicissitudes and embarrassments of the home government might lead to the transfer of Cuba to a continental power, called forth, between 1823 and 1896, various emphatic declarations of the policy of the United States to permit no disturbance of Cuba's connection with Spain unless in the direction of independence or acquisition by the United States through purchase; nor has there been any change of this declared policy since upon the part of our government.

## THE TEN YEARS WAR.

The revolution which began in 1895, lasted for ten years, despite the strenuous efforts of the successive peninsular governments to suppress it. Then, as now, the government of the United States testified its concern and offered its aid to put an end to bloodshed in Cuba. The overtures made by General Grant were refused and the war dragged on, entailing great loss of life and treasure, and increased injury to American interests, besides throwing increased burdens of neutrality upon this government. In 1875 peace was brought about by the "sacrosanct" obtained by negotiation between the Spanish commander, Martin de Campos, and the insurgent leaders.

## THE PRESENT INSURRECTION.

The present insurrection broke out in February, 1895. It is not my purpose at this time to recall its remarkable increase or to characterize its tenacious resistance against the enormous forces massed against it by Spain. The revolt and the efforts to subdue carried destruction to every quarter of the island, developing wide proportions and defying the efforts of Spain for its suppression. The civilized code of war has been disregarded no less by the Spaniards than by the Cubans.

## MEDIATION REJECTED.

The existing conditions cannot but fill this government and the American people with the gravest apprehension. There is no desire on the part of our people to profit by the misfortunes of Spain. We have only the desire to see the Cubans prosperous and contented, enjoying that measure of self-control which is the inalienable right of man, protected in their right to reap the benefit of the exhaustless treasures of their country.

## A FINANCIAL TIT-FOR-TAT.

I earnestly recommend as soon as the receipts of the government are quite sufficient to pay all the expenses of the government, that when any of the United States notes are presented for redemption in gold and are redeemed in gold, such notes shall be kept apart and set apart, and only paid out in exchange for gold. This is an obvious duty. If the holder of the United States note pretends to have a mortgage upon the government, he should not receive back from the government a United States note without paying gold in exchange for it. The reason for this is made all the more apparent when the government

(Continued on Second Page.)

BULLETIN OF  
The Wichita Daily Eagle.

Wichita, Tuesday, December 7, 1897.

Weather for Wichita today:  
Fair; warmer; south winds.  
Sun—Rise, 7:10; sets, 4:54.  
Moon—Waning; sets 3:53.

## INDEX OF TODAY'S IMPORTANT NEWS

- 1 Jennings Brothers Said to be Prisoners
- 2 President's Message to Congress
- 3 Fifty-fifth Congress in Session
- 4 Message Doesn't Disturb Wall Street
- 5 Hoosier Families Held to Millions
- 6 Waller Leads the Six-Day Racers
- 7 High School Class Petition Defeated
- 8 Garishness Case Bound Over
- 9 Sagasta Can't Save Cuba
- 10 War Cloud Hovers Over Austria
- 11 White Girl Charmed by a Negro

## MOTHER MCKINLEY VERY LOW

President Leaves Washington on His Re-  
turn to Canton.

Canton, Ohio, Dec. 6.—There was an agreeable surprise to the children and friends gathered about the bedside of Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley this afternoon. She regained consciousness sufficiently to recognize not only her children but to extend greeting to them, to her aged sister, Mrs. Osborne, Charles Miller and to others who were near.

Nourishment was given her about noon. It was soon after this that she manifested signs of returning consciousness. The first nourishment received for several days had a telling effect, and she at once rallied. There is again stronger hope that she may recover sufficiently to survive until the president reaches her bedside tomorrow morning, and perhaps to recognize him. It is not thought, however, that she will ever regain complete consciousness. When the attending physician left Mrs. McKinley this evening, it was with a feeling that she would survive a short time, and possibly longer. She had taken no nourishment since early in the afternoon, and was not in quite as good condition as when she seemed to recognize those about her. But she sustained little net loss of strength during the day and was resting in a quiet and seemingly natural condition.

10:30 p. m.—Mrs. McKinley is exceedingly low. She has just experienced another sinking spell, during which life seemed to be almost extinct. There are some moments when she does not seem to breathe. If she rallies from this spell she will probably survive the night, but just now it seems doubtful that she will rally. Her pulse is weak and uncertain, more so than at any other time, and her breathing is difficult. The physician when he last called reported that she had weakened perceptibly.

Washington, Dec. 6.—President McKinley left Washington at 7:30 o'clock tonight to return to the bedside of his mother at Canton. With him were Mrs. Abner McKinley, Miss Mabel McKinley, Miss Barker, Abner McKinley, A. J. Duncan and two maids and the steward of the White House. The party occupied the special Pullman Newport, which was attached to the rear of the Great Western. According to schedule the train is due in Canton at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, but upon receipt of unfavorable news from Canton, it may be rushed through on special time from any point beyond Baltimore. Assistant Secretary of State Day was also of the party.

## CENTRAL PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Report on Its Financial Relations With  
the Government.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Attorney General McKenna in his annual report to congress publishes a report of ex-Governor Hoadley, special counsel of the United States in the Pacific railroad cases, in which is set forth the history of the federal aid to the Central Pacific, and the results of the sale of the Union Pacific to the reorganization committee and the postponement of the sale of the Kansas Pacific until December 15. Nothing of importance has not already been made public is disclosed.

As to the Central Pacific, the attorney general says:  
"The general features of the relations between the government and the Central Pacific railroad company (which includes what was the Western Pacific Railroad company) are the same as those between the government and the Union Pacific, notwithstanding the Central Pacific was originally a California corporation."

"It is indebtedness to the government on the last day was as follows, cents omitted:  
Bonds loaned—Central Pacific, \$2,886,132; Western Pacific, \$1,703,564.  
Interest paid by the United States—Central Pacific, \$4,940,239; Western Pacific, \$2,133,819.

"Accrued interest four months unpaid—Central Pacific, \$206,122; Western Pacific, \$21,417.  
Interest repaid—By transportation, Central Pacific, \$1,067,699; by cash, Central Pacific, \$628,382; by transportation, Western Pacific, \$1,367.

"Balance by interest, not repaid—Central Pacific, \$2,824,237; Western Pacific, \$1,684,552.

"Total indebtedness—Central Pacific, \$5,710,437; Western Pacific, \$3,409,335.

"Grand total payable by Central Pacific, \$2,111,671; sinking fund, Central Pacific, \$267,666; sinking fund, Central Pacific, \$267,666.

"Total sinking fund, \$1,435,332.

"Crediting the company with all possible funds deposited as well as admitted to be due it, there will be due on the first of January next, \$4,672,097.

"West steps may be taken to meet the indebtedness in the meantime remains to be seen and the action of the department will depend upon the circumstances existing at that date, no action having been taken in order to avoid any question arising out of the claim of the company that by reason of the credits to which it is entitled it has not yet been in default."

Paris, Dec. 6.—Figueroa announces that Prince Oudonoff, at present Russian minister at Belgium, will succeed Baron De Mouchet as Russian ambassador to France at the end of the year.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 6.—Major Walsh, administrator for the Yukon district, has notified the government that he has imposed a tax of \$2 per gallon on all whisky going to the Yukon country. If this tax does not stop the traffic it will be raised.

## CONGRESS IN SESSION

ASSEMBLING OF THE LAWMAKERS  
MAKES A GALA DAY.

## PROMPTLY AT NOON

TWO GAVELS ORACK THE TWO  
HOUSES TO ORDER.

## BESIDES THE SPECTACULAR PART

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE IS THE  
MATTER OF SOLE INTEREST.Animated and Beautiful Scene Presented  
—Floral Tributes for Members—Open-  
ing of House and Senate.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The opening day of the regular session in the house passed without unusual incident of any character. The formalities attending the inauguration of the session are dry, and except as a spectacle, hardly repaid the crowds which thronged the public and private galleries. Yet with few exceptions, the visitors sat through the whole proceedings.

Mr. Dingley, the floor leader of the majority; Mr. Bailey, the recognized leader of the minority, and Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio, enjoyed the distinguished honor of their being appointed to wait upon the president, whose message was, of course the event of the day. Its reading was long and tedious, but it was followed with close attention by the members and the spectators in the galleries. There was no demonstration until the reading was concluded, when the Republicans joined in a hearty expression of approval. Immediately after the reading of the message, the house adjourned out of respect to the memories of Senator George of Mississippi and Representative Wright of Massachusetts, who died during the recess.

Washington, Dec. 6.—At noon today the first regular session of the Fifty-fifth congress was launched upon the unknown seas of legislation. Simultaneously, at both ends of the Capitol, Speaker Reed, in the house and Vice President Hobart, in the senate, called their respective bodies over which they preside. The ceremony attending the opening of a congress, though comparatively of a routine character, is a spectacle which in some respects is regarded as the greatest official event of the year at the national capital. Today the weather was propitious. The sun shone brilliantly from a cloudless sky, making a glorious bright December day with a tinge of frost in the air to invigorate the lungs and a breeze just strong enough to keep the stars and stripes snapping from the flagpoles. At the capitol the crowd swarmed into the corridors at an early hour and choked the marble steps as they ascended to the galleries from which they were to view the show. As is usual on such occasions, the reserved galleries were carefully guarded on both the house and senate sides, admission being only by card and the public had great difficulty in wedging itself into the limited space set aside for it.

## SPECTATORS OF THE SHOW.

The hall of representatives presented an animated appearance long before the hour of noon arrived. The surrounding corridors were filled with waiting, morning crowds and before 11 o'clock the air-circling galleries which overlooked the floor were black with people. The hall buzzed with the subdued hum of conversation as the members exchanged greetings and chatted in groups. The leaders, who were eagerly pointed out from the galleries, were, as usual, slow in putting in their appearance. Statesmen, like living mortals, have an eye for dramatic effects.

Chairman Hitt, of the foreign affairs committee, and Chairman Walker, of the banking and currency committee, whose positions will bring them much into the public eye during the session, were early on the floor, mingling with their colleagues.

## FLORAL TRIBUTES.

The floral tributes for the members were numerous and in some instances imposing. One, which attracted particularly more attention than any other on account of its unique character, graced the desk of General Grover of Ohio. It consisted of a huge tree of yellow chrysanthemums and American beauty roses, under the nodding branches of which stood an innocent looking top lamb. It was a tribute from the National Wood Growers' association. Some one discovered that under the simplicity of pretense to a portion of the lamb's anatomy it would give forth a sound resembling a blast and much amusement and merriment followed this disclosure.

The representation of a huge gavel in red and white carnations stood upon the speaker's table. Among others who were remembered with floral offerings were General Wheeler of Alabama, Mr. Dwyer of West Virginia, Mr. Delzell of Pennsylvania, Mr. C. W. Stone of Pennsylvania, Mr. Henderson of Iowa, Mr. Lacey of Iowa and Mr. Dayton of West Virginia.

At fifteen minutes before noon the floor was cleared of all persons except members and officers. Soon afterward Mr. Bailey of Texas, the leader of the minority, and "Silver Dog" Brand of Missouri, entered the hall together. Mr. Dingley, the floor leader of the house, smiling and affable as ever, came in just before the speaker appeared. As the hands of the clock pointed to twelve, Speaker Reed, attired in a black cut-away coat and wearing a red tie, pushed through the green door from the lobby and ascended the rostrum.

## RECEIVED NEW GAVELS.

One crack of the gavel opened the life on the floor and the conversation in the overhanging galleries. The gavel with which the speaker called the house to order was presented to him by J. C. Gouner, sheriff of Knox county, Tennessee, who sent it in the name of the "Whitaker Republicans of Knox Tennessee."

(Continued on Sixth Page.)